

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 NIC-01 /068 W

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R 051224Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO USEC BRUSSELS 1001

INFO /SECSTATE WASHDC 989

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

US MISSION GENEVA 630

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP, EEC

SUBJ: POLICE ACTION AGAINST COMMUNIST-BACKED

DEMOCRATIC JUNTA DRAWS PROTEST FROM EC

COMMISSIONERS AND SPANISH JOURNALISTS

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 451

B. EC BRUSSELS 862

BEGIN SUMMARY: PROTEST BY EC COMMISSIONERS OVER ARRESTS
SOME PARTICIPANTS IN RECENT BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM ON SPAIN HAS
CREATED SOME DELIBERATELY-INSPIRED CONFUSION OVER CASE.
ALTHOUGH ONE OF PERSONS ARRESTED, COMMUNIST ARMANDO LOPEZ
SALINAS, WAS PRESENT AT BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM, AND ANOTHER
BRUSSELS PARTICIPANT IS REPORTEDLY BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE,
THESE AND OTHER ACTIONS, INCLUDING DETENTION TWO INDIVIDUALS
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NOT AT SYMPOSIUM, HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH BRUSSELS MEETING

BUT ARE CONNECTED TO SUBSEQUENT AND UNRELATED CLANDESTINE PRESS CONFERENCE INVOLVING DEMOCRATIC JUNTA COALITION. ALL THOSE DETAINED FOR PARTICIPATION IN PRESS CONFERENCE HAVE BY NOW BEEN RELEASED. MADRID PRESS CONFERENCE HAS ALSO PROMPTED POLICE TO INTERROGATE SEVERAL JOURNALISTS WHO WERE PRESENT. JAN 10-11 BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM ITSELF WAS CONSIDERED RELATIVE SUCCESS BY PARTICIPANTS, HAS NOT PROVOKED ANY RETALIATORY ACTIONS BY GOVT, AND REPORTEDLY ONLY PRODUCED ONE AREA OF STRONG DISAGREEMENT AMONG PARTICIPANTS, WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN PARTISANS AND OPPONENTS OF DEMOCRATIC JUNTA. END SUMMARY

1. EC COMMISSIONERS' JAN 29 TELEGRAM (REF B) TO SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO EC PROTESTING IMPRISONMENT AND PROCEEDINGS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN RECENT SYMPOSIUM "NEW SPAIN IN EUROPE" HELD JAN 10-11 IN BRUSSELS, HAS RESULTED SOME CONFUSION OVER CASE, DELIBERATELY STIMULATED BY SOME OF SPANISH OPPOSITION GROUPS INVOLVED.

2. TELEGRAM APPARENTLY REFERS THREE PERSONS ARRESTED ON JAN 20, I.E. PHYSICIAN DR. DONATO FUEJO, WRITER ARMANDO LOPEZ SALINAS, AND JOURNALIST MARIO RODRIGUEZ DE ARAGON, BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A CLANDESTINE MADRID PRESS CONFERENCE ON JAN 18. PRESS CONFERENCE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM PREVIOUS WEEK, BUT WAS FOR PURPOSE ANNOUNCING RECENT CONSTITUTION OF MADRID SECTION OF DEMOCRATIC JUNTA (LATTER WAS FORMED IN PARIS LAST JULY BY SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY, OR PCE, SEC GEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO AND VARIOUS DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS). A FOURTH PERSON, JOSE VIDAL BENEYTO, IS ALLEGEDLY BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH DEMOCRATIC JUNTA PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT IS REPORTEDLY IN HIDING.

3. TWO OF ABOVE PERSONS, I.E. ARMANDO LOPEZ SALINAS AND JOSE VIDAL BENEYTO, WERE ALSO PRESENT AT BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM. EVERYONE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, INCLUDING PRESS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, AGREE THAT PERSONS ARRESTED WERE DETAINED BECAUSE OF THEIR OPEN AND DEFIANT ACT IN PUBLIZING ILLEGAL DEMOCRATIC JUNTA, AND NOT FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM (LATTER INVOLVED CONFIDENTIAL

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A WIDE SPECTRUM SPANISH OPPOSITIONISTS AND OTHERS, NONE OF WHOM HAVE BEEN MOLESTED FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM).

4. ON JAN 31 ONE OF PRINCIPAL FIGURES IN DEMOCRATIC JUNTA, PROMINENT LAWYER AND ONE-TIME MONARCHIST ANTONIO GARCIA TREVIJANO, TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE AND LAWYERS FROM POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) OF PROFESSOR ENRIQUE TIERNO GALVAN

(TIERNO GROUP IS ONE OF PRINCIPAL BOURGEOIS DEMOCRATIC GROUPS IN DEMOCRATIC JUNTA), HAD CABLED EC COMMISSIONERS POINTING OUT THAT TWO OF THOSE ARRESTED HAD ATTENDED BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM AND SUGGESTING EC COMMISSIONERS SEND PROTEST CABLE. HE GLEEFULLY STATED THIS WAS MOVE TO INVOLVE EC AND ITS PRESTIGE ON BEHALF THOSE DETAINED, AND TO GIVE GRATUITOUS PUBLICITY TO DEMOCRATIC JUNTA. WHILE EC COMMISSIONERS' CABLE DOES NOT DIRECTLY STATE THAT ARRESTS WERE RELATED TO BRUSSELS MEETING, IT DOES POINT OUT THAT SEVERAL OF THOSE ARRESTED HAD PARTICIPATED IN BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM, THUS IMPLYING A CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO EVENTS.

5. RE STATUS THOSE ARRESTED, DR. FUEJO WAS RELEASED ONE DAY AFTER HIS ARREST, SUBSEQUENTLY REARRESTED, AND FINALLY RELEASED AGAIN ON FEB 2 ON \$1000 BAIL. (DR. FUEJO WAS ALSO ONE OF MEMBERS OF TEAM OF CONSULTING PHYSICIANS WHICH TREATED GENERAL FRANCO DURING LATTER'S ILLNESS LAST SUMMER.) RODRIGUEZ DEL ARAGON AND LOPEZ SALINAS WERE EACH HELD A FEW DAYS BUT THEN RELEASED. FOURTH PERSON, VIDAL, IS STILL REPORTEDLY BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE. POLITICALLY, ARMANDO LOPEZ SALINAS IS REPORTEDLY A MEMBER OF PCE, WHEREAS DR. FUEJO IS MEMBER OF PSP.

6. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, SEVERAL SPANISH CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT AT DEMOCRATIC JUNTA PRESS CONFERENCE WERE CALLED IN AND QUESTIONED BY POLICE SHORTLY AFTER PRESS CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH NONE WERE DETAINED. ON FEB 3, TWO SUCH CORRESPONDENTS WERE AGAIN CALLED IN FOR POLICE QUESTIONING AND ONE OF THEM, ANGEL GARCIA HERRERA, WAS ONLY RELEASED AFTER MADRID PRESS ASSOCIATION PAID \$1000 BAIL. ALLEGED POLICE HARRASSMENT IN SOME OF THESE CASES RESULTED IN PROTEST LETTER TO MINISTER OF INFORMATION FROM HEAD OF MADRID PRESS ASSOCIATION, CO-SIGNED BY SOME 200

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JOURNALISTS, WHICH CITED SPECIFIC CASES OF POLICE INTER-FERENCE WITH PRESS FREEDOM AND WAS SECONDED BY SIMILAR PROTEST NOTE FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION.

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INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

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R 051224Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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INFO /SECSTATE WASHDC 990

AMEMBASSY BONN

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7. COMMENT: IT IS IRONIC THAT BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM HAS BEEN USED IN THIS MANNER BY SUPPORTERS OF THOSE DETAINED FOR UNRELATED DEMOCRATIC JUNTA PRESS CONFERENCE. ACCORDING DIFFERENT BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS, SYMPOSIUM WAS SERIOUS AFFAIR INVOLVING DISCUSSION SPANISH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION, WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS THOSE PRESENT THAT SPAIN CAN ONLY ENTER EUROPE IF ITS STRUCTURES ARE COMPLETELY DEMOCRATIZED. ONE ITEM WHICH DID PROVOKE BITTER DEBATE AMONG SPANISH PARTICIPANTS WAS WHEN RAUL MORODO, DEPUTY LEADER OF PSP, SOUGHT TO GET BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM TO GO ON RECORD AS FAVORING DEMOCRATIC JUNTA. THIS PROVOKED AN OUTBURST AT SYMPOSIUM FROM MEMBERS OF PSOE SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY AND UGT TRADE UNION, PRINCIPAL SPANISH CLANDESTINE POLITICAL AND LABOR GROUP CURRENTLY OPPOSED TO CONTINUING EFFORTS TO EXPAND DEMOCRATIC JUNTA (PSOE/UGT GROUP HAS ALSO TO DATE SUCCESSFULLY KEPT MOST OTHER MODERATE CONFIDENTIAL

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CENTRIST GROUPS FROM JOINING JUNTA.) PRINCIPAL PSOE/UGT REP AT SYMPOSIUM, SAN SEBASTIAN LAWYER ENRIQUE MUJICA HERTZOG (A FORMER COMMUNIST WHO BROKE AWAY FROM PCE SOME YEARS AGO TO BECOME A SOCIALIST), REPORTEDLY LED SUCCESSFUL FRONTAL ATTACK ON PSP AND PCE EFFORTS TO PUBLICIZE DEMOCRATIC JUNTA AND PRESENT IT AS SPANISH SOLUTION FOR

FUTURE. THUS, IT IS NOW PARTICULARLY GALLING TO PSOE THAT EC COMMISSIONERS ARE PROTESTING ARRESTS OF THREE INDIVIDUALS DETAINED BECAUSE OF PRESS CONFERENCE INVOLVING DEMOCRATIC JUNTA (NOT BECAUSE OF BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPATION).

8. BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM ITSELF WAS CONSIDERED A RELATIVE SUCCESS IN BRINGING TO ATTENTION OF EC CURRENT SITUATION IN SPAIN. ALTHOUGH MANY OF PERSONS WHO ATTENDED BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM FROM INSIDE SPAIN FEARED THEY MIGHT BE ARRESTED UPON THEIR RETURN AND THAT SUCH POSSIBLE ARRESTS MIGHT BE ABLE TO TRANSFORM CASE INTO ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL CAUSE CELEBRE SUCH AS OCCURRED WITH FAMOUS 1962 MUNICH MEETING, NO SUCH ARRESTS OF BRUSSEL PARTICIPANTS HAS TAKEN PLACE. ONE OFFICIAL IN PRESIDENCY OF GOVT TOLD EMBOFF SPANISH GOVT HAD DELIBERATELY DECIDED TO REFRAIN FROM ANY PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS IN RETALIATION FOR BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM AND THAT ITS WHOLE ATTITUDE TOWARDS BRUSSELS MEETING WAS TO DOWNPLAY ITS IMPORTANCE. ALSO, SYMPOSIUM APPEARS TO HAVE LACKED MAKINGS OF A "MUNICH 1975" BECAUSE, UNLIKE IN 1962, MOST OPPOSITION GROUPS ATTENDING BRUSSELS MEETING DID NOT HAVE THEIR TOP NATIONAL LEADERS PRESENT, BUT ONLY THEIR SECOND ECHELON DEPUTY LEADERS.

9. ONE INTERESTING SIDELIGHT RE BRUSSELS SYMPOSIUM WAS ACTIVITY OF SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO EC ALBERTO ULLASTRES (PROMINENT OPUS DEI FIGURE WHO CAN PERHAPS BE CONSIDERED AMONG REGIME LIBERALIZERS). ULLASTRES REPORTEDLY EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO SEVERAL SPANISH PARTICIPANTS AT CONGRESS TO HAVE DINNER AT HIS HOME. THIS INVITATION REPORTEDLY UPSET AND DIVIDED SOME OF OPPOSITIONISTS PRESENT BECAUSE SOME FELT THEY SHOULD ATTEND, WHILE OTHERS FELT THEY WOULD COMPROMISE THEIR PRINCIPLES BY DINING WITH AMBASSADOR OF REGIME THEY WERE IN BRUSSELS TO CONDEMN. PARTICIPANTS FINALLY REPORTEDLY INSISTED THAT IF ANY WERE TO BE INVITED TO DINNER WITH AMBASSADOR, ALL PARTICIPANTS

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SHOULD BE SO INVITED. IN VIEW THIS "ALL OR NOTHING" APPROACH BY PARTICIPANTS, ULLASTRES WAS OBLIGED TO WITHDRAW INVITATIONS. ULLASTRES ALSO REPORTEDLY SOUGHT TO HAVE MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF ATTEND SYMPOSIUM, BUT MET WITH REFUSAL TO ALLOW THEIR ATTENDANCE BY SYMPOSIUM'S SPONSORS, THE "PRESENT DAY REALITIES CLUB", ON GROUNDS THAT SYMPOSIUM WAS A STRICTLY PRIVATE AFFAIR NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC.

10. EMBASSY APPRECIATES EXCELLENT REPORTING FROM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS ON RECENT NEW SPAIN SYMPOSIUM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 05 FEB 1975
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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